



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Pool Slough, New Albin, Iowa



Proposed Pool Slough project site, New Albin, Iowa

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), Pool Slough is a backwater area located at New Albin, Iowa near the Iowa-Minnesota border on the west side of the Mississippi River in pool 9. The site is located in Iowa on land owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The Upper Mississippi River is a major migration route for waterfowl during the spring and fall and plays a major role in providing feeding and resting habitat for birds that populate the continent. There has been a general decline in the amount of high-quality feeding and resting habitat because of the loss of backwaters due to sedimentation and the reduction of aquatic plant growth in open water areas.

The Pool Slough project area has the water resources and topography conducive to waterfowl food production and to the development of excellent habitat for migratory waterfowl feeding and resting. The project area provides an opportunity to develop a 52-acre controlled wetland at the site.

The proposed controlled wetland would involve constructing low dikes and installing a control structure to regulate the water level in the pond. Pumping from Pool Slough would fill the pond in the fall. The project would produce an annual food source for migratory waterfowl.

Status

General design for the project began in 1995. A draft Definite Project Report was circulated for public review in November 1999. Changes in flow patterns at the site caused a delay in completing the report. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2002.

Authority

The Pool Slough Habitat Project is being planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - EMP. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 and reauthorized by WRDA 1999.

The project is being planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs for the project would be shared 65-percent federal/35-percent non-federal. Operation and maintenance costs would be 100 percent non-federal. The non-federal sponsor would be the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Federal cost	\$560,000
Non-federal cost	\$155,000
Total estimated cost	\$715,000